20th September 1961]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to Starred Question No. 1660-J, asked by Sri N. K. Palanisami (on behalf of Sri S. M. Annamalai) at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 20th September 1961, page 241 supra.]

The steps taken by the Department for the development of grape cultivation are as follows :—

(i) At the Fruit Research Station, established in 1959, at Periakulam in Madurai district, several investigations on grapes have been initiated with a view to determine superior varieties and develop improved methods of cultivation for increasing yields and improving quality.

(ii) At the orchards of the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, research work on grapes has been in progress, since 1953. The work has resulted in the isolation of the variety 'Anab-E-Shahi' as a superior high yielding table variety. One eight-year-old plant of this variety gave a phenomenal yield of 805 bunches in the summer crop of this year. Improved methods of pruning, manurial schedules, irrigation practices, etc., have also been developed at this Centre. Several farmers and persons having gardens attached to residences round about Coimbatore have already planted this grape variety.

(iii) Plants of Anab-E-Shahi and other varieties have been planted in the Model Orchards at Timmapuram and Periakulam and their culture, including improved methods of the manuring, pruning, etc., is demonstrated for the benefit of the public. Plant materials of grapes are also propagated at several departmental centres for sale to the public. It is estimated that an additional area of about 140 acres has been brought under grapes during the Second Plan period through departmental supplies of plants; and

(iv) Under the Fruit Development Scheme, long-term loans (for planting new orchards), and short-term loans (for the rejuvenation of old orchards) are given for increasing the area and improving the production of several varieties of fruits. These loans are available for grape cultivation also.